Scanimation

Build a device to create the effect of animation with still images.

Kit contains:

- 1 transparent stripe template
- 3 scanimation strips
- 3 rectangle of black paper

You will need: scissors and clear tape.

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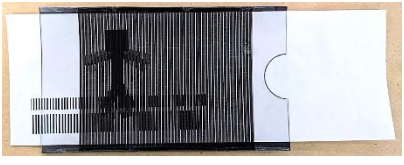
INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Create your scanimation viewer. Cut out the transparent stripe template. Tape the top and bottom to the black rectangle. Try to keep your tape on the horizontal bars of the transparency film.

Step 2. Cut out the three scanimation strips. Predict what kind of animation each of these odd pictures will create.

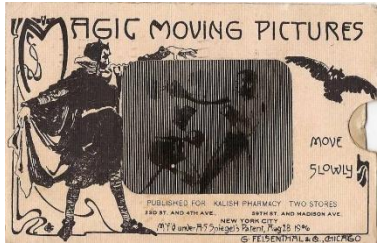
Step 3. Slide a strip into the viewer and slowly pull it through. Was your prediction correct?



Source: https://youtu.be/zdW7PvGZ0uM

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Your transparency film is printed with a striped barrier grid, which hides and reveals different sections of an image as it's moved beneath it. Each of these images is like a still frame from an animation. When revealed sequentially, they trick your brain into believing that an image is moving.


MAGIC MOVING PICTURES
MOVE
SLOWLY
PUBLISHED FOR KALISH PHARMACY TWO STORES
3RD AV. AND 4TH AVE. 59TH ST. AND MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY
M79 under M55 Spiegel's Patent, May 28, 1895
G. FELSENTHAL & S. CHICAGO

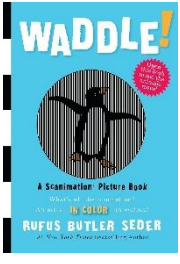
Variations on this technique date back more than a century. To the right is a magic moving pictures card from 1906. Below is an Ombro Cinéma from 1920. A mechanism wound a scroll behind transparent grid to show a whole semi-animated story. It even played music!

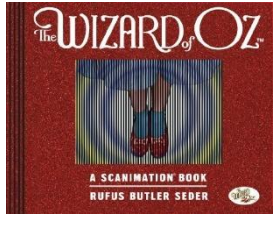
MODERN SCANIMATION

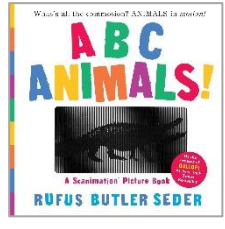
Rufus Butler Seder creates art installations with optical illusions that delight audiences of all ages. Among his other artistic innovations, he modernized barrier grid animation and coined the term “scanimation”. Watch him talk about his work in this video:

https://youtu.be/LOTqX8ddLwg

You can also see Rufus’s scanimation up close in children’s books at the library. Here are some of the books he created:







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